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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for noting in the Office Action Summary that claims 1-30 and 32 are allowed. Applicant believes that the remaining claims are also allowable, for the reasons set out below.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC 102 - Claim 31

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner states that claim 31 is anticipated by Planas et al ("Planas", US 6,112,015). With respect, the Applicant disagrees.

Planas discloses a method for displaying useful network management information for a typical optical network. In the passage identified by the examiner (Column 6 lines 37-46), Planas seeks to address the problem of clutter which arises where too many objects in the network are displayed at the same time in a topographical representation. Planas suggests a solution where multiple nodes are grouped into container icons, each container icon representing a plurality of nodes. In this manner, the number of icons graphically displayed is reduced resulting in greater clarity.

While claim 31 seeks to solve a similar problem, it provides a different solution, in a different context. While Planas is directed to a method for more effectively displaying a topology of a conventional optical network, claim 31 is directed to the display of a network topology which is particularly useful in the administration of DWDM (Dense Wave Division Multiplexing) networks. Claim 31 achieves this goal by displaying only those nodes identified as being add/drop nodes:

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the method comprising identifying in the plurality of nodes, add/drop nodes at which a channel signal may be added to and/or dropped from, an optical signal on the optical network; ...and displayingonly those of the plurality of nodes which have been identified as add/drop nodes.

This method is also described in page 16 lines 27-30 and page 17 lines 1-21.

Thus, instead of grouping nodes geographically or otherwise and displaying a single icon representing that group as Planas suggests, claim 31 solves the problem of clutter by performing a logical filter on the nodes and displaying only those having a particular attribute. More specifically, in claim 31 only those nodes having been identified as being add/drop nodes in the network are displayed.

Because Planas does not disclose the type of logical filtering of nodes defined in claim 31, it cannot anticipate claim 31 and the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC 102 - Claim 33

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claim 33 is rejected as being anticipated by Trier et al ("Trier", US 2003/0030862). With respect, the Applicant requests reconsideration of this rejection.

The method recites in claim 33 allows a network administrator to see the channels identified for a selected route as well as whether each of the longitudinal segments of which each channel is composed, has been provisioned for data traffic. For example, a route between Toronto and Montreal may be composed of a number of parallel channels, and there may be

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several add/drop points en route at which an optical signal can be added to or dropped from each channel, say in Ottawa and Kingston. In such an example, each channel of the route has three longitudinal segments, Toronto-Kingston, Kingston-Ottawa, Ottawa-Montreal. When a network administrator is faced with the task of determining whether a channel or a portion thereof is available for signal transmission, it is very useful to easily view which longitudinal segments of which channels have already been provisioned for data traffic. This is precisely the type of information communicated according to the method of claim 33:

*communicating in association with each of the...channels, which of the
longitudinal segments...has been provisioned for data traffic*

This is more fully described in the section "Channel Viewer Panel found at Page 24 line 19 to Page 28 line 2.

Trier does not disclose such a method. Trier simply provides, in Figures 9 and 10, an indication of whether the whole channel is used or not, and what the power of the optical wavelength is for that channel. Trier does not break the channel down into its longitudinal segments and does not give an indication of the usage of those segments.

Thus, Trier does not disclose all elements defined in claim 33, and the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's objection.

Claim Rejection - 35 USC 102 - Claims 35 and 36

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that claims 35 and 36 are anticipated by Naik et al ("Naik", US 2004/0081308). With respect, the Applicant disagrees.

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Both claims 35 and 36 recite methods for displaying network management information for an optical network having at least one route, each route comprising a plurality of nodes and links. In claim 35, the selection of a node results in a tabular display of information respecting each route which includes the selected node. In claim 36, the selection of a link results in a tabular display of information respecting each route which includes the selected link.

The Examiner asserts that these features of claims 35 and 36 are disclosed at paragraphs [1098] and [0332] of Naik, respectively. However, in accordance with paragraph [1098] and Figure 33, the Crossconnect Report of Naik simply lists all cross-connects (links) in all of the network elements identified in a topology window (see paragraph [1082]). This report does not disclose route information for any particular node. Further, paragraph [0332] and Figure 8 of Naik simply discloses the listing of general information for all links, as opposed to route information for a selected link. It is worth noting that Naik does not contemplate either the identification or display of any route information upon selection of a node or a link.

Accordingly, Naik does not anticipate either claim 35 or 36 and reconsideration of the Examiner's objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC 103(a) - Claim 34

In paragraph 8 of the Office Action, the examiner objects to claim 34 on the basis that the subject matter thereof is obvious in view of Trier and Naik.

In accordance with the preamble of claim 34, each route is comprised of a plurality of links, each link is comprised of a plurality of channels, each said channel is composed of at least one longitudinal segment, and each longitudinal segment has associated therewith a transmitter

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and a receiver. Upon selection of a route, the transmitters and receivers associated with the route, as defined above, are displayed in a tabular form. Thus, the transmitters and receivers displayed are those associated with each longitudinal segment of the route (namely the transmitters and receivers for each channel of each link of the route). This feature can be useful in administering systems such as DWDM networks.

In contrast, Naik simply teaches the display of transmitters and receivers at the endpoints of the route [0320], and does not include those intermediate endpoints at the ends of contained longitudinal segments. Such an interface only communicates a small fraction of the potential trouble-spots along a route. This deficiency is not resolved by the excerpts from Trier identified by the Examiner which simply speaks of the general monitoring of optical line signal characteristics ([0030]), or measuring a characteristic of a channel (Column 16 Lines 22-36).

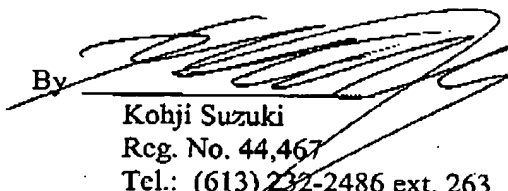
The Examiner is reminded that a valid obviousness objection requires that all elements of the subject matter be found in the cited references. As this condition is not met in the present objection, the Applicant respectfully requests that it be withdrawn.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to allowance but, if there are any outstanding issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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